

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 4, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: September 3, 2003 (2115)

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 20,053 acres, 7% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
 - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 7,583 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
 - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 51,117 acres, 81% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 16,246 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Weldon). This 44,385 acre complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
 - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 52,319 acres, 70% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,107 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
 - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,100 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
 - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 34,754 acres, 50% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula. Transition to Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) will begin 9/04.*
 - *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 22,542 acres, 75% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
 - *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 24,825 acres, 56% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
 - *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*
- *Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) assumed command at 0630 today –*

- 37,812 acres, 76% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
- Cathedral Peak – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 2,778 acres, 22% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.
- Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – 3,010 acres, 90% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.
- Winslow – 13,438 acres, 55% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.
- Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 24,495 acres, 60% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.
- Clear/Nez Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Cones). This 10,533 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 41 miles SW of Lolo in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
- Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 2,930 acres, 95% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.
- Rough Draw Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gray) – 3,265 acres, 85% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.
- Cherry Creek Complex – 4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.
- East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.
- Mollman – 200 acres, 40% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan. ****No new information reported****
- Hobble – 38,320 acres, 99% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff.

B. Initial Attack *Minimal initial attack - 6 new fires 7,964 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
430 AM MDT THU SEP 4 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Slight Chance Of Afternoon Dry Thunderstorms. Highs 84 To 94.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Slight Chance Of Evening Dry Thunderstorms. Lows 42 To 52.

Friday - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Highs 80 To 90.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 80s To Mid 90s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The Mid 40s To Lower 50s.

Friday - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Upper 70s To Upper 80s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The 40s.

Friday - Partly Cloudy. Highs In The Lower 70s To Mid 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today - Sunny. Highs In The 90s...70s And 80s Mountains.

Tonight - Clear. Lows In The 50s...With 30s And 40s Mountains.

Friday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The 90s...70s And 80s Mountains.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County

Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)

7/15/03

Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Sanders	Chouteau	Missoula
Glacier	Teton	Jefferson	Pondera
Lake	Broadwater	Meagher	Powell
Lewis & Clark	Cascade	Mineral	Toole
Lincoln			

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	68 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		4 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		3 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
227 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	127 HVY Equipment	211 Airmen Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.

- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Northwest Area Command
Missoula Area Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc